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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/671,667	09/29/2003	Kazuya Kumazawa	Q77598	8277

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EXAMINER	
JACKSON, BLANE J	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2618	

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01/30/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/671,667	KUMAZAWA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Blane J. Jackson	2618	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *11 October 2007*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1,2,4 and 9-20* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1,2,4 and 9-20* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 11 October 2007 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 11 October 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The applicant primarily argues that Takeyama fails to disclose "said card insertion port comprising a slope to guide the insertion of a card into said internal housing wherein one end of the slope has an edge for abutting the card in a predetermined position". Takeyama clearly discloses the IC card (5) is inserted into the insertion space (6), through a card inlet/outlet port (17) down an inclination surface (18), while pressing down the upwardly directing hook (21) of the latch arm (20) such that when the insertion of the IC card has been completed, in "a predetermined position", the latch arm is restored and the upwardly directing hook is engaged with a rear end face of the IC card to prevent the IC card from withdrawal, figures 2 and 4, column 5, lines 49. The directing hook (21) is at one end, the upper end of the slope and has an edge for

abutting the card. Further, the hook and resilient latch arm is a molded portion of the slope of the card connector. Consequently, it is the Examiner's opinion that this clear teaching of Takeyama reads on the broad claim language of the application.

Response Period

The previous Office Action filed 02 November 2007 is vacated with the period for response restarted with respect to this Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 9-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Takeyama et al. (US 6,343,018).

As to claim 1, Takeyama teaches a card holding structure in an internal housing (figure 1, connector body (3) in closure member (2) of the battery case) comprising:

A card insertion port provided in a battery holding concave portion of the internal housing (figures 1-4, column 4, lines 27-38, card inlet/outlet port (17)),

Said card insertion port comprising a slope to guide the insertion of a card into the internal housing wherein *one end of the slope has an edge for abutting the card* in a predetermined position and the other end is integral with the internal housing (figures 1

and 4, column 3, lines 49 to column 4, line 22, card inlet/outlet port (17) is formed at the upper end of the card insertion space (6) which is disposed at an angle of inclination with respect to the upper surface of the wiring circuit board (4); figures 4 and 6, column 5, lines 30-49, directing hook (21) of the resilient latch arm (20) is engaged with a rear end face of the IC card so that the IC card is prevented from withdrawal and considered "an edge for abutting the card in a predetermined position"; figure 5D, column 4, line 59 to column 5, line 9, inserted IC stops at a front end wall or guide stopper (28) at "a predetermined position" in contact with the electrical contacts),

A card connector for holding the card (figures 1-5, column 3, lines 49-59, the card insertion space (6) is defined by the top (cover) plate (15), base plate (8) and the first and second side walls (9 and 10)).

As to claim 2, Takeyama teaches the internal housing is provided with a holding rib for inserting the card to the predetermined position (figures 2, 4 and 5d, column 3, lines 34-57, engagement elements (11) project from the upper surfaces of the first and second side walls towards the interior of the card insertion space and the first and second side walls are adapted to restrict left and right side surfaces of the IC card).

Claim 3 is cancelled.

As to claim 4 with respect to claim 1 or 2, Takeyama teaches the internal housing which covers the card connector has a check opening (figures 2 and 3, the open area

labeled (27) of the card insertion space 6, not covered by top plate (15), shows the top front of the inserted IC card).

Claims 5-8 cancelled.

As to claim 9 with respect to claim 4, Takeyama teaches the card is visible in said check opening only when said card is positioned in the predetermined position in said internal housing (figures 2 and 3, the open area labeled (27) of the card insertion space 6, not covered by top plate (15), shows the top front of the inserted IC card).

As to claim 10 with respect to claim 1, Takeyama teaches wherein said internal housing which covers said card is provided with at least one protrusion extending in a direction toward a card connector and retaining said card in said predetermined position (figures 2-4, column 5, lines 4-17, engagement elements (11) formed as part of top cover plate (15) project towards the interior of the card insertion space (6) to restrict the upper surfaces of the left and right side edges of the IC card and prevent upward ejection of the card from the seated position).

As to claim 11 with respect to claim 10, Takeyama teaches the at least one protrusion is located substantially over the card connector (figures 2 and 4, column 5, lines 4-17, protrusions (11) formed as part of top cover plate (15) located substantially over the card insertion space (6) and the electrical contacts (7)).

As to claim 12 with respect to claim 11, Takeyama teaches the card is pressed against said card connector by the at least one protrusion (figures 4 and 5D, column 5, lines 4-49, card is pressed against the engagement element (11) by the contacting terminals and the upwardly directing hook (21) is engaged with a rear end face of the IC card).

As to claim 13 with respect to claim 1, Takeyama teaches the internal housing is provided with a card receiving portion limiting movement of said card in a specified direction the card within the internal housing (figures 1-4, column 3, lines 31-59, card connector body (3)).

As to claim 14, Takeyama teaches a card holding structure in an internal housing comprising:

A card insertion port provided in a battery holding concave portion of an internal housing (figures 1-4, column 4, lines 27-38, card inlet/outlet port (17) of connector body (3) under the battery case),

A slope part which is provided in said card insertion port to guide the insertion of a card into said internal housing (figures 1 and 4, column 3, lines 49 to column 4, line 22, card inlet/outlet port (17) is formed at the upper end of the card insertion space (6) which is disposed at an angle of inclination with respect to the upper surface of the wiring circuit board (4)),

A stopper part located in the slope part wherein the stopper part is ductile so as to conform to the slope of the slope part when pressure is applied (figures 1-4, column 5, lines 30-49, the IC card is inserted into the space (6) while pressing down the upwardly directing hook (21) of the latch arm (20)),

A card connector for holding said card (figures 1-5, column 3, lines 31-59, card insertion space (6) is defined by the top plate(15), engagement elements (11), base plate (8) and the first and second side walls (9 and 10))..

As to claim 15 with respect to claim 1, Takeyama teaches the integrally formed end of the slope is integral with the internal housing at an area defined by the card insertion port (figures 5a-5d, column 4, line 51 to column 5, line 29, the card holding structure is of one-piece structure integrally molded from synthetic resin).

As to claim 16 with respect to claim 1, Takeyama teaches the card does not contact the sloped portion of the slope in the predetermined position (column 5, lines 4-17, the IC card is retained in its inclined posture within the card insertion space and sandwiched between the contacting terminal (13) of contact (7) and the engagement piece (11) and top plate (15)).

As to claim 17 with respect to claim 1, Takeyama teaches the card is parallel to the card connector in the predetermined position (figure 4, column 5, lines 4-23, parallel in the sense the contacts (7) press up against the lower surface of the IC card).

As to claim 18 with respect to claim 1, Takeyama teaches the card abutting edge end of the slope is located down the slope from the integrally formed end (column 4, line 67 to column 5, line 49, figures 4 and 5d, guide stopper (28) versus latch arm (20) with hook (21) on the slope).

As to claim 19 with respect to claim 14, Takeyama teaches the card is parallel to the card connector in the predetermined position (figure 4, column 5, lines 4-23, parallel in the sense the contacts (7) press up against the lower surface of the IC card).

As to claim 20 with respect to claim 10, Takeyama teaches the at least one protrusion is formed on an inside part of the internal housing (figure 2 and 4, the engagement elements (11) project from the upper surfaces of the first and second side walls (9 and 10) toward the interior of the card insertion space (6) and adapted to restrict left and right side surfaces of the IC card from upward ejection).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Blane J. Jackson whose telephone number is (571) 272-7890. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday, 7:30 AM-6:00 PM, EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Urban can be reached on (571) 272-7899. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.